

Vermont State Workforce Development Board
Meeting Minutes
December 10, 2021
9:00 am – 11:00 am
Virtual

Board/Committee members in attendance:

Adam Grinold, Diane Dalmasse, Ellen Kahler, Dan French (Proxy. Heather Bouchey), Jill Olson, Joyce Judy, Rebecca Kapsalis, Pat Elmer, Steven Dellinger-Pate, Tom Longstreth, Janette Bombardier, Paul Biebel (Proxy. Kathie Duckless)

Guests in attendance:

Alexander Beck, Alex Bunten, Amanda Chase, Amelia Seman Anna Telensky, Mathew Barewicz, Victoria Biondolillo, Bobbi Jo Carter, Brian Kravitz, Sarah Buxton, Cara Robecheck, Robin Castle, Dave Culver, Beth Demers, Denise Girard, Ruth Durkee, Gillian Nanton, Shaun Gilpin, Hal Cohen, Christine Hallquist, Jay Nichols, Ken Ryan, Michael Keogh, Kim Hokanson, Linda Schadler, Liz Royer, Marcy Miller, Marilyn Cargill, Mary Anne Sheahan, Mary Ellen Giglio, Maureen Hebert, Michael Marcotte, Nicole LaPointe, Patricia Giavara, Jay Ramsey, Abby Rhim, Rhoni Basden, Rick Bugbee, Rob Bahny, Rob Stubbins Sr., Kinsely Sicard, Thomas Cheney, Thomas Saylor, Tiffany Walker, Wendy Klein, Amanda Wheeler, Mary Branagan, Austin Davis

Chair Adam Grinold called the meeting to order at 9:03 am and gave brief remarks regarding the overlap between economic and workforce development.

Old Business

Chair Adam Grinold filed a motion to approve October 7, 2021 minutes and hearing no corrections moved to accept the minutes written. Motion was unanimously approved

New Business

Executive Director Victoria Biondolillo outlined continued work regarding the staggering of term limits and setting up check-in meetings with her in the New Year. She outlined the meeting agenda and goal to have today's discussions focused on collaboration among board members. Additionally, she gave an update regarding the Board's MOU/IFA.

Workforce Development in Vermont, More Than Just a Job

All presentations can be found here

Shaun Gilpin (Housing Division Director, Housing and Community Development) presented an update on housing development in the state. From labor to land to lumber within the last few years, the system is strained. However, despite COVID-19, there is funding and programs underway aimed towards providing housing.

Christine Hallquist (Executive Director, Vermont Community Broadband Board) shared the Broadband Board's goal of connecting all Vermonters with broadband within the next five years through private and public funding partnerships. She highlighted the labor shortage and how the Board plans to entice workers to join the broadband workforce with the goal of creating a sustainable labor supply.

Heather Bouchey (Deputy Secretary, Vermont Agency of Education) presented regarding Vermont's Cradle to Career system and how we ensure that as a state, our students are prepared for future training programs or the workforce once they leave school. Addressing the COVID-19 Delta surge, she discussed both pandemic and academic recovery. Additionally, she discussed a variety of ongoing and potential future federal and state policy initiatives.

Executive Director Victoria Biondolillo gave remarks regarding breakout rooms and outlined starting conversations regarding coordination, attempting to highlight where we have holes in our system.

Vermont Businesses: Highlighted that we are losing what we already have. The state has a horrible first year out of school success rate. We need to focus on population that is already here rather than relocating people.

Education and Training Pipelines

Programmatic Representatives

Executive Director Victoria Biondolillo gave closing remarks and urged participants to follow up in smaller meetings to continue dialogue. She then made the motion to adjourn at 10:55 am. Hearing no objections, the motion was approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:56 am.

Respectfully submitted by Abby Rhim

Abby Rhim, Executive Assistant, Vermont State Workforce Development Board